

There are a number of issues that should be discussed regarding the purchase of the railroad by Canadian National, but there are 2 issue I feel are potentially most harmful: the deivision of the village and the safety and well-being of our children.

Barrington is a vibrant, robust and involved community. We have cultural venues here in Barrington. Our HS performed MacBeth to a full audience and rave reviews. We have art shows at the Garlands and music programs at the library. The village celebratea the birth of our nation with 4 days of friends, family and neighbors gathering for food, fun and music. We have other community events: wine tasting, beer fests, and children's' activities. We boast a great outdoor public swimming pool, a skateboard park, and a soccer organization that has more than 2000 children enrolled in it. We have our own shopping mall here in Barrington, great restaurants, and a new 11 acre park of open space adjacent to the Cuba Marsh wetlands (incidentally will have the CN trains running along side of the park).

You would be hard pressed to find another community to match the number of generous volunteers who give their time and talent to the many not-for-profit organizations here in Barrington...organizations that give to needy individuals and families not only here in the Barrington area, but as far away and New Orleans and Africa.

The impact of freight train congestion would be culturally, economically, and socially harmful to Barrington. Why? Because the freight train traffic will sever the north side of the town from the south. There will be limited access to activities, shopping, dining, facilities, parks, schools, work, customers and more..

The fabric of our community will predictably unravel.

My other major concern is the safety of our children. Hundreds of teenagers drive or walk to and from the High School every day. The freight train tracks are only 2 blocks away on Lake Cook Road. Curently, in the afternoon it is slow and difficult to leave the school via Hart Road to Rte 14. Now with up to 20 freight trains a day, 1 to 2 miles long, it will become even more difficult to leave via Lake Cook Road.

I am afraid that teenagers may try to beat the trains. The devastating consequence of this risk-taking by teenagers is unspeakable. This environment is exceedingly dangerous to our children and must be avoided!

Please keep Barrington a safe and viable place to live.

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